

Application No. 10/706,847

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended, no claims are cancelled and no new claims are added. Applicants have amended claim 1 to make explicit certain features of the invention.

35 U.S.C. § 102

The office action rejected claims 1-3, 5, 7-9, 11-12 and 14 as being anticipated under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) by Christensen et al. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

With regard to independent claim 1, the Examiner indicated that Christensen discloses the step of "translating the first mold core in a direction generally normal to the first direction of linear retraction" (at col. 1, lines 51-56 and col. 2, lines 56-59). However, Christensen at Col. 1, lines 51-56 discloses that "segmental core each may be rotatably connected to a displaceable rod in its associated core." Applicants respectfully submit that this portion of Christensen does not teach or suggest *translating* the first mold core in a direction generally normal to the first direction of linear retraction. Indeed, Christensen refers to parts being rotatably connected. Christensen at Col. 2, lines 56-59 refers to "core parts 13 and 29 will thus be displaced and *swung in rotation* to cores 8 and 7." Again, this portion of Christensen does not disclose *translating* the first mold core in a direction generally normal to the first direction of linear retraction or linear translation at all. Translation is defined as "in mechanics, motion in which every point of the moving object has simultaneously the same velocity and direction of motion: *distinguished from rotation*." Webster's New Universal Unabridged Dictionary, 1939 (2nd Edition 1979) Christensen describes an arcuate, rotation motion. Therefore, Applicants submit that for at least these reasons Christensen does not anticipate claim

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1. Claims 2 and 3 depend from claim 1 and should be patentable over Christensen for at least the same reasons indicated above.

With regard to independent claim 5, again the Examiner indicates that Christensen at Col. 1, lines 51-56 and Col. 2, lines 56-59 discloses the step of "translating the mold core in a direction generally normal to the linear to the direction of linear retraction." As Applicants have pointed out above, the above cited portions of Christensen refer to parts rotatably connected and arcuately swung in relation to other portions of the core as distinct from the *translational* motion of the Applicants' claimed invention. Applicants submit that linear translation of the mold core and the arcuate movement described in Christensen are clearly distinct. Therefore, the invention as claimed in claim 5 is not anticipated or rendered obvious by Christensen. Claim 6 depends from claim 5 and therefore are not anticipated by Christensen for at least the same reasons as indicated above.

With regard to claim 7, the Examiner has taken the position that Christensen shows that it is known to have two mold segments that are linearly retractable independently of each other and the mold core being movable translationally in a direction substantially normal to a direction of the linear retraction. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and submit that a careful review of the cited portions of Christensen does not show any indication of the Christensen mold segments being independently retractable nor does it show the mold core being movable in any direction other than that of linear retraction. Therefore, Christensen does not teach or suggest the invention as claimed in claim 7. Claims 8-10 depend from claim 7 thus should be patentable over Christensen for at least the same reasons as discussed with relation to claim 7.

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With regard to claim 11, the office action indicates that Christensen shows that it is known to have a molded fluoropolymer sweep fluid fitting having straight internally generally cylindrical elongate ends and flat drafts defined in a wall surrounding a lumen thereof. The Examiner cites Figures 1-4 of Christensen and Col. 2, lines 67-72. Col. 2 at lines 67-72 which recites "the parts of the mold cores and core parts may be constructed in any suitable way other than the shown, just as the mold according to the invention may be used for similar articles other than those shown and described e.g., for T-tubes or other tube assemblies or branchings of any suitable plastic material." Applicants respectfully submit that this sentence in Christensen and the cited drawings do not show any suggestion or teaching of flat drafts which as described in the specification comprise flattened portions on the interior walls of the fitting. Indeed, the drawings of Christensen show no flat portions on the interior walls of the fittings at all. Therefore, Applicants submit that claim 11 is not anticipated or rendered obvious by Christensen and should be allowable for at least these reasons.

Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The office action rejected Claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Christensen in view of Shale. As Applicants have discussed above, claim 10 depends from claim 5 and neither Christensen nor Shale alone or in combination disclose or suggest all of the elements recited in claim 5, therefore claim 10 is not obvious over Christensen in view of Shale.

The office action rejected claims 4, 6 and 13 as being obvious over Christensen in view of Corbett, Jr. Claim 4 depends from claim 1 and claim 6 and 13 depend from claim 5. As Applicants have discussed above, Christensen fails to disclose or suggest elements as recited in

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claims 1 and 5. Therefore, since these elements are also not found in Corbett, Jr., Applicants submit that claims 4, 6 and 13 are not rendered obvious by Christensen in combination with Corbett, Jr.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner believes it would be useful to advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,



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